(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) on what terms the sanction has been given;

(d) to what extent and in what way it affects national media and press; and

(e) what steps Government envisage to take to protect national media and national press from this invasion ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Coverage of National Political Events

5512. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have laid down guidelines about coverage of national political events and its news telecast;

(b) if so, what are the guidelines and the rationale behind them;

(c) if not, whether the media enjoys perfect autonomy to select and decide coverage, without any discriminational or political interference;

(d) the reasons for which Government project preponderantly their perception of espousing Dunkel/GATT proposals, totally sidelining the opposition's stand in this regard; and

(e) what were the reasons for political bias in minimum coverage given to BJP in Delhi on the 6th April, 1994 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following guidelines laid down by the Government from time to time are followed by Doordarshan while telecasting news about national political events :

(i) Political activities are noticed based on their news worthiness.

(ii) Unbiased reportings of the news in respect of all the political parties.

(iii) Coverage of differing viewpoints in the same bulletin to the extent possible.

(iv) Avoiding in the news bulletin the use of labels such as "progressive" and "communal" etc.

(v) In case of controversy about nomenclature of a political party, following the name as approved by the Election Commission of India or by a court of law.

(vi) Coverage of political controversies based on objectivity and fair play.

The rationale behind this is to telecast factual, accurate and objective news stories selected primarily on the basis of their news value.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Different viewpoints on the proposals on Dunkel/GATT have been included in Doordarshan's news bulletins.

(e) The rally was covered extensively in the news bulletins on 6-4-1994.

Title Clearance of Newspapers

5513. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of applications received by the Registrar of Newspapers during the period 1st April, 1993 to 31st March, 1994 for title clearance of new newspapers;

(b) the number of titles cleared during the said period; and

(c) the number of applications for title clearance pending as on the 1st April, 1994 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) During the period from 1-4-93 to 31-3-94, Registrar of Newspapers for India received 17,554 applications for verification of titles.

(b) 10,627 titles were verified during this period.

(c) 30 applications for verification of title were pending as on 1-4-94.

Films certified by the Censor Board

3514. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the number of films certified by the Censor Board during the year 1993-94, language-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : The language-wise break-up of Indian feature films (celluloid) certified by the Central Board of Film Certification during the year 1993 and from January to March, 1994 is given in the enclosed statement

Statement

The language-wise break-up of Indian Feature Films (Celluloid) certified during the year 1993 and from January to March, 1994

S. No.	Language	Number of films certified	
		1993	1994 (Jan. to March)
1.	Hindi	183	41
2.	Tamil	168	37
3.	Telugu	148	46
4.	Malayalam	71	14
5.	Kannada	78	17
6.	Bengali	57	9
7.	Marathi	35	2
8.	Gujarati	3	2
9.	Oriya	20	2
10.	Assamese	9	—
11.	Punjabi	14	3
12.	Bhojpuri	2	1
13.	English	2	—
14	Rajasthani	5	1
15	Nepali	7	1
16	Manipuri	3	—
17.	Haryanavi	1	1
18.	Garhwali	1	—
19.	Tulu	1	—
20.	Urdu	1	—
21.	Gujjar	1	—
22.	Kodava	1	—
23.	Kok-Borok	1	—
	Total :	812	177

Dues outstanding to Doordarshan

5515. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether advertising agencies, public sector units and Government departments owe Doordarshan crores of rupees for commercials;

(b) if so, the details of such arrears as on the 31st March, 1994;

(c) whether Doordarshan has contemplated any action to recover the dues outstanding against each of the firms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As on 31-3-1994, an amount of Rs. 12.81 crores for the period up to 1992-93 was outstanding.

(c) and (d) Doordarshan is taking recourse to all the contractual provisions to ensure timely payment of dues, including encashment of bank guarantee/deaccreditation of errant agencies, arbitration and legal action.

Hike in payment rate of casual Production Assistants in Doordarshan

5516. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether payment rate for casual production assistants in Doordarshan has been hiked recently;

(b) whether this enhancement has been made only for those working in one Division while others in the rest of the Divisions have not been covered;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for this discrepancy; and

(d) whether Government propose to enhance the rate of other staff also ?